

COMBINED OPTICAL STORAGE AND FLASH CARD READER APPARATUS USING SATA PORT AND ACCESSING METHOD THEREOF

Abstract

An electronic apparatus includes a controller having a serial AT Attachment (SATA) port. The controller is electrically coupled to a host through the SATA port. A plurality of peripheral devices are electrically coupled to the controller using digital means. The controller operates as a port multiplier to allow the host to access the peripheral devices through the SATA port. By using the digital means to connect the controller and the attached peripheral devices, no SATA ports or SATA cables are required and the cost of the electronic apparatus is therefore significantly reduced. The reduced number of SATA cables improves air movement and heat dissipation. The digital means can be designed to avoid complicated handshake operations between the controller and the peripheral devices, which improves latency and further increases the efficiency of the electronic apparatus.